

Measure Up

Winter 2010

Assessment news for eighth-grade teachers



Did you know?

- **NAEP 2011 will include assessments in mathematics, reading, and science.**
- **About 8,200 grade 8 schools will participate in the NAEP 2011 assessment.**
- **About 538,000 eighth-grade students will take the NAEP 2011 assessment.**

Thanks, Teachers!

The success of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) relies heavily on the combined efforts of students, teachers, and school administrators.

Teachers encouraging students to be involved and do their best is important because the participation of every student selected is essential to ensure that national performance is accurately portrayed. Teachers play a vital role because they promote understanding of what influences student learning.

Teachers of eighth-grade students who are selected to participate in the assessment will be asked to complete a short survey focusing on teaching experience. School coordinators will distribute the survey in hard copy. The survey may also

be completed online at <http://naepq.com>. NAEP will use this information to report on current instructional activities in the nation's classrooms.

Teachers can use NAEP as a resource in the classroom. Sample test questions and student responses, scoring guides, and more detailed information about the questions are available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>. Your NAEP school coordinator is your school's liaison for all NAEP assessment activities and can provide additional guidance and information.

Questionnaires for Students, Teachers, and Schools

In addition to assessing subject-area achievement, NAEP collects information that provides a context for reporting student performance.

As part of most NAEP assessments, three types of questionnaires are used to collect information:

Student questionnaires, completed by students, collect information on students'

demographic characteristics, classroom experiences, and educational support;

Teacher questionnaires, completed by teachers, gather data on teacher training, and instructional practices; and

School questionnaires, completed by the principal or assistant principal, gather information on school policies and characteristics.

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Questionnaires for Students, Teachers, and Schools

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Teachers are asked to complete a questionnaire asking them about their previous educational experiences and current teaching practices. The valuable time teachers spend completing these questionnaires contributes greatly to

the possible interpretations of the overall data collected. The teacher and school questionnaires are available here: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.asp>.

Findings From the NAEP 2009 Teacher Questionnaires

74% of eighth-grade students had teachers who assessed mathematics with individual or group projects at least once or twice a month.

46% of eighth-grade students had teachers who discussed interpretations of reading in class at least once or twice a week.

59% of eighth-grade students had teachers who met with students at least once or twice a month to review work and evaluate progress.

68% of eighth-grade students had teachers who discussed vocabulary in class at least once or twice a week.

For more information about the questionnaires, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.asp>.

Sample Questions from Teacher Questionnaire

How many hours of mathematics instruction do your students receive in a typical week?

- a) Less than 3 hours
- b) At least 3 hours, but less than 5 hours
- c) At least 5 hours, but less than 7 hours
- d) 7 or more hours

Approximately how much mathematics homework do you assign to students in this class each day?

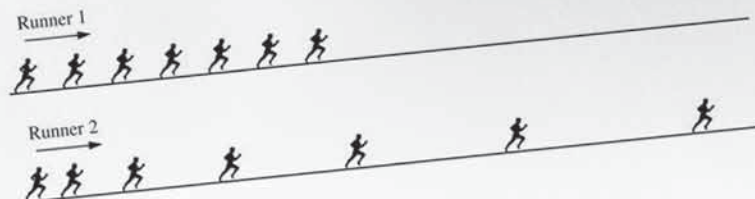
- a) None
- b) 15 minutes
- c) 30 minutes
- d) 45 minutes
- e) One hour
- f) More than one hour

NAEP in the Classroom

With the publication of NAEP results, select items from each assessment are released. Teachers can access the items, answer keys and scoring guides, sample student responses, and national performance results for fourth-grade students using the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

The NAEP Questions Tool includes both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions for all NAEP subjects and grades. Sample items from past NAEP assessments in mathematics and reading follow. Additional information about these items can be found by using the Questions Tool.

Sample Mathematics Item



The picture above shows the positions of two runners at one-second intervals as they move from left to right. For each runner, indicate whether the runner's speed seems to be constant, increasing, or decreasing.

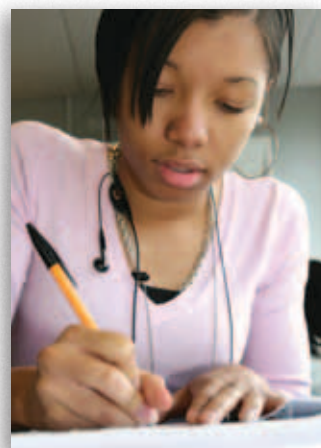
Explain how you can tell this from the pictures.

Sample Writing #1

Runner 1's speed is constant because the intervals are equal. Runner 2's speed is increasing because the intervals increase in length, making his speed quicker.

Sample Writing #2

For runner #1 he is staying at constant speed bc he is equally apart each second and for #2 he is increasing speed bc each second he is farther and farther away from the previous second.



SCORE & DESCRIPTION

The sample mathematics item shown here was rated as complete, essential, partial, or unsatisfactory/incorrect.

To see the full description of the scoring guide and scorer commentary, please visit the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

What is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states
Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx
Download a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp
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